

improvement, for each advance has been met, in the first place, by the most strenuous opposition. Of course, these remarks are made of the body of superintendents. There are some—although a few—who have acted from a more enlightened spirit than the mass of their associates.

Dr. Buckham labors apparently under the disadvantage of being unacquainted with the French or German, or even with the English or American, literature of the subject to be found outside of Maudsley and Wharton and Stillé. Indeed, the work is to a great extent a commentary on the able volume on psychological medicine, forming a part of their treatise on medical jurisprudence. For a writer on insanity to ignore the vast body of literature contributed by that nation of the world which stands first in psychological medicine, the French, or to confine his citations to the translation of an author, is unpardonable.

Dr. Buckham's remedy for the ills of which he very properly complains is the organization of a corps of experts who shall be specially charged with the trial of the question of insanity. In theory this notion is a good one, and has been often advanced before; but when we look at the records of courts and see how many notorious and sane criminals have been acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity sworn to by so-called experts, and how many others evidently insane have been condemned by like testimony, we may doubt the applicability of his plan. We have seen superintendents of lunatic asylums, the class from which, we presume, Dr. Buckham would take his experts, rushing to Washington, at the dictation of public clamor, to aid in hanging a man whose whole conduct was that of a lunatic, and in whom the post-mortem examination showed the existence of organic disease of the brain.

**Traité Clinique et Pratique des Maladies Mentales.**

Par le Dr. J. LUYS, Membre de l' Académie de Médecine, Médecin de la Salpêtrière. Paris: Adrien Delahaye et Émile Lecroisnier, 1881.

**Practical and Clinical Treatise on Mental Diseases.**

By Dr. J. LUYS, Member of the Academy of Medicine, Physician to the Salpêtrière. Paris: Adrien Delahaye and Émile Lecroisnier, 1881.

**Manuel des Maladies Mentales.** Par le Dr. BRA, Ancien Interne des Asiles d' Aliéné de la Seine. Paris: A. Delahaye et E. Lecroisnier, 1883.

**Manual of Mental Diseases.** By Dr. BRA, Former Interne

of the Insane Asylums of the Department of the Seine. Paris : A. Delahaye, and E. Lecroisnier, 1883.

The present rage for the study of psychiatry seems not to be confined to the United States, where the profession has been stimulated to its study by the trial of Guiteau. Within the last three years many systematic works on insanity have appeared in France from the pens of Voisin, Ball, and others, and among these the two works now under consideration occupy a prominent place. It is scarcely just to compare them; for while one claims to be a treatise, the other modestly proclaims itself only a manual whose object is to furnish for the use of general practitioners and students a clear description of the different psychoses freed from glittering and metaphysical generalities. The work of Dr. Luys deals with the subject from more than a clinical point of view. The fascinating anatomical speculations of this writer are presented in the first part of the work. The next is devoted to the study of cerebral physiology, as analyzed in the light of the anatomical speculations. He says that "as the complex apparatus of the nervous system is always resolvable into the ultimate anatomical elements, into a nerve-cell and nerve-fibre, so the most complex manifestations of their activity are susceptible of resolution into elementary properties of tissue which are the appanage of all cells endowed with life. These elementary properties are essentially vital, combined one with the other, always under all manifestations of dynamic activity however complicated. They are three in number,—sensibility, automatism, and, what I call, 'organic phosphorescence.' " The last is the property by which the nervous elements register the vibrations to which they have been subject. Under the pathological section he divides the psychoses into the types produced by hyperæmia, those produced by anæmia, and those in which these cerebral circulatory disturbances are subordinated to cortical disease and defect. Luys is inclined, like Dr. Hammond, to believe that hallucinations constitute a morbid entity, for he says the hallucinated individual constitutes a morbid original type, as clearly defined as the epileptic, paralytic, or hysteric, "and has, therefore, considered the hallucinated patients under a distinct nosological species. From a clinical stand-point, Luys' views tend to confusion, as hallucinations are found in all varieties given by him, and are obviously secondary to these. He regards parietic dementia as a distinct entity, and in it finds hallucinations. He has not cited a single case in which hallucinations occurred alone. He states that delusions of persecution are very frequently only a symptomatic expression of hallucinatory pro-

cesses ; the truth is just the opposite, and is shown by some of Luys' cases. The classification adopted by Bra is the etiological one of Morel, and Bra does not seem to have assimilated the important modifications of this made in Germany and Italy. In some respects it is not as consistent as Luys' classification, as is shown by Bra's making varieties based on other principles than etiology. Bra has not carried it to the absurd extreme of Skae. Both Bra and Luys believe in moral insanity, and both believe in impulsive insanity. It is almost unnecessary to state that Bra, being a pupil of Morel, recognizes an hereditary insanity dependent on cortical malformation rather than disease, and Luys does likewise, as is shown in his third division. The descriptions of the various types are clearly given in both works. The work of Luys does not lean to the absurd views of late formulated by Voisin, that demonstrable pathological change is a constant factor in the acute psychoses. The treatment given in both works deserves study. The works are both printed in the poor style characteristic of French medical publishers ; neither has a good index, and the illustrations of Luys resemble photographs of the surface of the moon more than they do photographs of nerve tissue.

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**Insanity : Its Causes and Prevention.** By HENRY PUTNAM STEARNS, M.D., Superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, Connecticut ; Lecturer on Insanity in the Yale College Medical Department. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1883.

The present work is obviously intended more for the public than the profession, and should not therefore be subjected to the criticism which a work of a purely scientific character requires. It is obvious that the author cannot conceive of morbid mental phenomena other than as associated with disease of the brain. The preliminary chapter does not contain any thing calling for special mention. It is written in a popular style, and neither the mode of thought nor style of composition is specially striking. The chapter on the increase of insanity places too little stress on the fundamental fact that as nations increase in population and civilization, persons displaying mental peculiarities become more and more out of accord with their surroundings and are in consequence committed to asylums, where formerly they would be punished as criminals or allowed to roam about as innocents. The author's statistics are not of much value, as they are not analyzed with sufficient care. The chapter on insanity and civiliza-